

2 November 1981
MJN-8132

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Jordan Bureau Monthly Report - October 1981

I. General

A. Ambassador and Mrs. Viets departed for Washington 22 October to prepare for King Husayn's official visit beginning 2 November. Prior to his departure, the Ambassador noted that while there is usually a big upturn in relations between a visiting leader's country and the United States just prior to the visit, such is not the case this time. He went on to say that although relations are not that bad, the Jordanian papers, primarily the English-Language JORDAN TIMES, have continued to strongly criticize President Reagan and his policies toward the Middle East despite the Ambassador's appeals to the Government to use its influence in behalf of moderation. The Bureau will be videotaping the King's visit for ICA.

B. Former President Richard Nixon paid an overnight visit to Jordan as guest of Crown Prince Hassan following his attendance at Egyptian President As-Sadat's funeral. During his short stay in the country, Mr. Nixon paid a two-hour call on Ambassador Viets at the Embassy and had his picture taken with sundry members of the Embassy staff, including two Bureau Staff members.

C. Israel's ban on two-way travel across the Allenby Bridge, which went into affect on 1 October, has caused little problem for most Embassy personnel. Unfortunately, one of the few caught up in bureaucratic red tape at the border on his way back to Jordan was Editor [redacted] who was delayed a day and a half. Also incurring crossing delays was London Bureau Monitor [redacted] but for different reasons. It took Issah a week to make it to the West Bank, but his delay was due to the thousands of returning pilgrims following the 'Id holidays.

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II. Operations

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. As of 1 October, the bureau undertook to file items as well as program summaries of the previously uncovered Jerusalem Radio Arabic service. The coverage, requested by Headquarters, was prompted by reported complaints that the radio service had been dis-

torting U.S. official and press comment to suggest an identity of U.S. and Israeli viewpoints. The bureau's liberal selection of items cast doubt on the validity of the complaint.

2. Alerted by Nicosia Bureau's flash FYI reporting that shooting was heard over the Cairo Radio live coverage of the 6 October military parade viewed by President as-Sadat, the bureau immediately began monitoring REUTER'S Arabic transmission, which reported within seconds that As-Sadat had been shot. Throughout the next few hours, the bureau kept the Ambassador and other Embassy officials informed of developments leading up to the official acknowledgment that As-Sadat had died. The assassination necessitated several changes in the bureau's coverage, particularly in providing backstop assistance to Nicosia. Jordan Bureau also covered for the following three weeks the poorly heard clandestine station Voice of Egyptian People as well as the Baghdad broadcast Voice of Egypt of Arabism and the Damascus broadcast Voice of Arab Egypt. At the same time Gulf Bureau assisted Jordan Bureau by assuming coverage of two daily San'a' newscasts; and the bureau received monitorial assistance from visiting PMU monitor [redacted]
[redacted]

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B. Lateral Services

ICA requested the bureau to provide videotapes of Jordanian TV coverage of King Husayn's U.S. visit.

III. Administration

A. Personnel

1. Monitor trainee [redacted] entered on duty 18 October.
2. Teletypist [redacted] reported that he would be resigning for personal reasons in November.

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IV. Visits

- A. PMU monitor [redacted] on TDY 14-23 October.
- B. Headquarters auditors on inspection visit 28-29 October.

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[redacted]
Chief, Jordan Bureau

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